

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for handling checks, comprising:
 - retrieving MICR data from a check;
 - 5 performing a search of code line data for a match based on the MICR data;
 - determining a plurality of feature instructions from the code line data if a match exists;
 - executing an executable code file to generate
 - 10 results based on the MICR data if no match exists;
 - determining a plurality of feature instructions from the results; and
 - communicating with a check processing system in real-time over a TCP/IP connection.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1, the MICR data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters.
3. The method of Claim 2, the standardized MICR data
- 20 comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.
4. The method of Claim 1, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.
- 25 5. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

6. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

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7. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

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8. The method of Claim 7, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

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9. The method of Claim 8, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

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10. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

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11. The method of Claim 1, the code line data comprising a plurality of identifiers, each identifier identifying a particular check, performing a search of the code line data for a match based on the MICR data comprising matching a check to one of the stored identifiers.

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12. The method of Claim 11, the code line data comprising more than sixteen identifiers.

13. The method of Claim 11, the code line data
5 comprising at least 1,000 identifiers.

14. The method of Claim 11, the identifiers comprising an account number for the check.

15. A system for handling checks, comprising:
logic stored on at least one computer-processable
medium;

the logic operable to retrieve MICR data from a
5 check, to perform a search of code line data for a match
based on the MICR data, to determine a plurality of feature
instructions from the code line data if a match exists, to
execute an executable code file to generate results based
on the MICR data if no match exists, to determine a
10 plurality of feature instructions from the results, and to
communicate with a check processing system in real-time
over a TCP/IP connection.

16. The system of Claim 15, the logic further
15 operable to standardize the MICR data for a plurality of
disparate types of check sorters.

17. The system of Claim 16, the standardized MICR
data comprising a format compatible with a check sorter
20 compatible with the check processing system.

18. The system of Claim 15, the MICR data comprising
an account number for the check.

25 19. The system of Claim 15, the feature instructions
comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control
endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

20. The system of Claim 15, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

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21. The system of Claim 15, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

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22. The system of Claim 21, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

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23. The system of Claim 22, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

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24. The system of Claim 15, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

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25. The system of Claim 15, the code line data comprising a plurality of identifiers, each identifier identifying a particular check, the logic further operable to match a check to one of the stored identifiers.

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26. The system of Claim 25, the code line data comprising more than sixteen identifiers.

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27. The system of Claim 25, the code line data comprising at least 1,000 identifiers.

5 28. The system of Claim 25, the identifiers comprising an account number for the check.

29. A code line data matching system, comprising:
logic stored on at least one computer-processable
medium;

the logic operable to receive MICR data for a
5 check and to perform a search of code line data for a match
based on the MICR data using a predefined algorithm, the
code line data comprising more than sixteen identifiers,
each identifier identifying a particular check.

10 30. The system of Claim 29, the logic further
operable to modify the predefined algorithm based on the
MICR data.

15 31. The system of Claim 29, the MICR data comprising
an account number for the check.

32. The system of Claim 29, the code line data
comprising at least 1,000 identifiers.

20 33. The system of Claim 29, the identifiers
comprising an account number for the check.

34. A method for code line data matching, comprising:
receiving MICR data for a check; and
performing a search of code line data for a match
based on the MICR data using a predefined algorithm, the
5 code line data comprising more than sixteen identifiers,
each identifier identifying a particular check.

35. The method of Claim 34, further comprising
modifying the predefined algorithm based on the MICR data.
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36. The method of Claim 34, the code line data
comprising a first specified number of identifiers, the
method further comprising modifying the predefined
algorithm such that the code line data comprises a second
15 specified number of identifiers.

37. The method of Claim 34, the code line data
comprising at least 1,000 identifiers.

20 38. The method of Claim 34, the identifiers
comprising an account number for the check.

39. A system for handling checks, comprising:
logic encoded in media; and
the logic operable to access MICR data retrieved
5 by a sorter from a plurality of checks, to generate a
process buffer based on the accessed MICR data, to
communicate the generated process buffer to a check
processing system, to generate in real-time a plurality of
feature instructions for each check based on the generated
10 process buffer, and to communicate the generated feature
instructions to the sorter.

40. The system of Claim 39, wherein the check
processing system is substantially compatible with the
15 sorter using the emulator.

41. The system of Claim 39, the logic further
operable to store a plurality of identifiers, each
identifier identifying a particular check, to match a
20 check to one of the stored identifiers, and to retrieve a
portion of the feature instructions for the check based
on the identifier.